

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 37-40.

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Claim 1 (original): An interlocking animal toy system, comprising:

a first toy having a food chamber;

a second toy; and

a means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy.

Claim 2 (original): The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a flared snap fit connection.

Claim 3 (original): The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a twist and lock connection.

Claim 4 (original): The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a threaded connection.

Claim 5 (original): The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a magnetic connection.

Claim 6 (original): The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a flange connection.

Claim 7 (original): The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a ribbed friction fit connection.

Claim 8 (original): The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a pin connection.

Claim 9 (original): The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a clip connection.

Claim 10 (original): The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a nozzle connection.

Claim 11 (original): The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a union.


Claim 12 (original): The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a coil.

Claim 13 (original): An animal toy system comprising:

a first toy having a food-receiving chamber formed with a slotted opening having retention flaps, and having a nozzle leading from said chamber to an opening;

a second toy having a food-receiving chamber formed with a slotted opening having retention flaps, and having a nozzle leading from said chamber to an opening;
and

wherein said nozzle of said first toy is removably insertable into said slotted opening of said second toy to retain said first toy and said second toy together.



Claim 14 (original): The animal toy system of claim 13, wherein said retention flaps of said second toy are deformable.

Claim 15 (original): The animal toy system of claim 13, wherein said nozzle is surrounded by a rim and wherein said rim is insertable into said slotted opening to removably retain a portion of said nozzle within said slotted opening.

Claim 16 (original): The animal toy system of claim 13 wherein at least one said chamber can receive and dispense animal food.

Claim 17 (original): The animal toy system of claim 16, wherein said animal food is passable from said chamber of said first toy to said chamber of said second toy.

Claim 18 (original): The animal toy system of claim 16, wherein said animal food passes from said chamber through said nozzle for consumption by an animal.

Claim 19 (original): The animal toy system of claim 13, further comprising at least one restriction positioned within said food-receiving chamber to impede the passage of food from said chamber.

Claim 20 (original): An animal toy system comprising:

a first toy having a chamber formed with a slotted opening having retention flaps, and having a nozzle leading from said chamber to an opening;

a second toy having a chamber formed with a slotted opening having retention flaps, and having a nozzle leading from said chamber to an opening;

a union having a first end formed with a slotted opening and a second end formed with a slotted opening; and

wherein said nozzle of said first toy is removably insertable into said slotted opening of said first end of said union, and said nozzle of said second toy is removably insertable into said slotted opening of said second end of said union.

Claim 21 (original): An animal toy system comprising:

a first toy having a chamber formed with a side hole, and having a top formed with an opening;

a second toy having a chamber formed with a side hole, and having a top formed with an opening; and

a means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy.

Claim 22 (original): The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

said first toy formed with a side hole;

said second toy formed with a top formed with a flared rim about said top;

wherein said flared rim about said top opening of said second toy is insertable into said side hole of said first toy to position said top of said first toy in said side hole of said second toy to removably attach said first and said second toy together.

Claim 23 (original): The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

said first toy formed with a side hole and a retaining flange about said side hole, said retaining flange formed with a slot;

said second toy formed with a top opening and formed with a locking tab;

wherein said locking tab of said top opening of said second toy is insertable into said slot of said flange of said side hole of said first toy to position said top of said first toy in said side hole of said second toy; and

wherein said second toy is rotatable with respect to said first toy to displace said locking tab from said slot to removably attach said first and said second toy together.

Claim 24 (original): The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

said first toy formed with a side hole having female helical thread;

said second toy formed with a top formed with a male helical thread about said top, said male helical thread corresponding to said female helical thread;

wherein said male helical thread of said second toy is threadable into said female helical thread in said side hole of said first toy to position said top of said first toy in said side hole of said second toy to removably attach said first and said second toy together.

Claim 25 (original): The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

said first toy formed with a side hole having a first magnetic element;

said second toy formed with a top formed with a second magnetic element, said first magnetic element and said second magnetic element having a magnetic attraction therebetween;

wherein said top of said second toy is insertable into said side hole of said first toy to position said first magnetic element adjacent said second magnetic element to establish a magnetic attraction therebetween to removably retain said first toy and said second toy together.

Claim 26 (original): The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

said first toy formed with a side hole having a flange formed with mounting holes;
said second toy formed with a top having a flange formed with mounting holes;
wherein said mounting holes on said flange on said top of said second toy correspond to said mounting holes on said flange on said side hole of said first toy to receive a pin through said mounting holes, thereby retaining said first toy and said second toy together.

Claim 27 (original): The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

said first toy formed with a side hole having an annular groove;
said second toy formed with a top formed with an annular rib, said annular groove sized to receive said annular rib;
wherein said top of said second toy is insertable into said side hole of said first toy to position said annular rib in said annular groove to removably retain said first and said second toy together.

Claim 28 (original): The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

said first toy formed with a side hole having a first pair of diametrically opposed bores;

said second toy formed with a top having a second pair of diametrically opposed bores, said bores in said top corresponding to said bores in said side hole;

wherein said top of said second toy is insertable into said side hole of said first toy to position said second pair of bores in alignment within said first pair of bores to receive a pin removably inserted through said first pair of bores and said second pair of bores to attach said first and said second toy together.

Claim 29 (original): The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

said first toy having a side hole formed with a first flange having two or more notches;

said second toy having a top formed with a second flange having two or more notches;

wherein said flange of said second toy is positionable adjacent said flange of said first toy to align two or more notches on said first flange with corresponding notches on said second flange; and

a clip for each of said corresponding notches in said first flange and said second flange to removably attach said first toy and said second toy together.

Claim 30 (original): The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

said first toy formed with a side hole having deformable retention flaps;

said second toy having a top formed with a nozzle;

wherein said top of said second toy is insertable into said side hole and past said deformable retention flaps of said first toy to retain said first toy and said second toy together.

Claim 31 (original): The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

said first toy formed with a nozzle;

said second toy formed with a nozzle;

a union having a first end formed with a hole having a first set of deformable retention flaps, and a second end formed with a hole having a second set of deformable retention flaps;

wherein said nozzle of said first toy is insertable into said hole formed in said first end and past said first set of deformable retention flaps, and said nozzle of said second toy is insertable into said hole formed in said second end and past said second set of deformable retention flaps, to releasably join said union said first toy, and said second toy.

Claim 32 (original): The animal toy system of claim 31, wherein said union is formed with a passageway extending from said first end to said second end to provide for the movement of animal food from said first toy to said second toy.

Claim 33 (original): The animal toy system of claim 31, wherein said union is substantially solid.

Claim 34 (original): The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

said first toy formed with a hole having a first set of deformable retention flaps;

said second toy formed with a hole having a second set of deformable retention flaps;

a coil having a first end, and a second end;

wherein said first end of said coil is insertable into said hole formed in said first toy and past said first set of deformable retention flaps, and said second end of said coil is insertable into said hole formed in said second toy and past said second set of deformable retention flaps, to releasably retain said coil between said first toy and said second toy.

Claim 35 (original): The animal toy system of claim 34, wherein said coil is formed with a passageway extending from said first end to said second end to provide for the movement of animal food from said first toy to said second toy.

Claim 36 (original): The animal toy system of claim 34, wherein said coil is substantially solid.

Claims 37-40 (canceled)

Claim 41 (original): An interlocking animal toy system, comprising:

a first toy having an attachment feature;

a second toy having an attachment feature; and

wherein said attachment feature of said second toy is removably attachable to said attachment feature of said first toy.